10/26/71

Dear Mary,

If I don't make sense, it isn't your fault. I've been at it since half past midnight, after 1 1/2 hours of sleep. Just couldn't sleep last night, and that is rare it has been years since it happened. But I've finished repaging the first part of Pt. I'll now start on what will become the second, you know it as III. The new last part is by far the most important information we've ever had. If the impossible happened and a major publisher got interested in it, it would do the job. There is no chance.

I think I can understand Arch's feeling as he thinks his time is ending. And there is much a man of means can do. There is also the great likelihood of wasting all or most of it. My experience with Bud, if he is to be taken as an example, is that I've seen nothing commensurate with his enormous (in my terms) investment, nothing of any real significance and new and an awful lot of bad and hurtful stuff. Spending money like this is less productive than flushing it down the toilet. That, at least, doesn't hurt anyone.

It is too bad we didn't know each other personally sooner, for if you'd heard some of what I said when I was in Dallas you'd know my thinking. I differ from all the others in many ways, and one is that I believe if I were to solve the crime nobody would believe me. Bud and Jim taste it, and both, considering the extent of time and money they've invested, really know very little about the essence of the crime. They talk much, glittering in generalities, but not more. And I pursue no political line. I don't blame conservatives and I don't exonerate liberals, and the closest I come to being out to get anyone is to try and make him stand on his own feet.

There are some things that can be done now. There are some things that should be assured for the future. Neither involves for a wealthy man what is a large sum of money. They depend more, aside from money, on people. Some time ago I had arrangement for my files to become part of an archive in a major eastern university. I've since told the guy who asked for them that they are really my only capital, and the price of them is the making of my work possible. I told Wayne the same thing. The last I heard of him is when he said of all the things he could have, there is nothing he'd like better. His record is not persuasive.

So, first of all, Arch has to decide what he wants to do and what he thinks is the most important thing as he sees it. It is his money, and whether he is right or wrong as others may come to regard his decision, it is his money. He has every right to spend it wrongly if he wants to. I am neither forecasting this nor hoping it, but it is the case.

You know how I am about my materials. I've trusted everybody and too often regretted it. I'm beginning to change, from endless disillusionment. But I still work with people, still take time I don't have to try and help, etc., and still let others know what I know. As it becomes more obvious that there are too few currently doing serious work, I tend to restrict this. And it takes time I'd better spend otherwise. But I prefer to be helpful to others, for the time I can save them they can use to do what I do not do. But increasingly I'm becoming unhappier about what I regard as irresponsibility. Increasingly, those who consider they have bestowed a great benefaction on mankind by simple not approving the Warren Report seem to be the only new ones.

However, subject to the few conditions you already know, there is no barrier to my file now to those who will use them properly. And they also include peripheral things not essential to my writing that can help put the whole thing in social and political perspective in the future. They also contain an enormous outpouring from people, ordinary and other, besides just investigations and documents.

I'm in a time bind now and money is scantier than I can remember. One day last week Lil figured we had then a total of $71.00! And the government has backed out on negotiating a settlement in my damage suit for the ruin of our farm, so that means an enormous amount of

new work for me, and with the standing and new handicaps: they've double-crossed me and have already corrupt d at least one major witness. Everybody seems the think the publishers of P-O have been reached. Wh ther or not so, their behavior is exactly that. They have cheated me out of more than $4,000 plus what we both lost by their not promoting the book. I have to find time and means of coping with that. While broke.

And most of all I must get things on paper. It does little good in my mind and not much more in my files if others haven't made the correlation and added the meaning. You'd be surprised at what people see and don't understand. So, top priority now is finishing up PM and having it ready, just in case. When I've done that I'll take time to go down there, and I'll be glad to. There are also a couple of people I didn't get to see when I was there. I think they'll be more likely to talk to me now than before and I know so much more than I did then.

Anyway, I've also got several other books started, and I'd like to complete them, whether or not they get published. Of xxxxx course, I'd prefer publication, no matter how minor. I need little more for any of these bo k, none really. But I'd like to make at least that record. And then I'd like to be able to do a little investigating again. There are some very promising things not in any way in the Archives that I should be pursuing. I've be n so handicapped that when people have phoned me and told me they are ready to talk, I simply can't pay the plane fare. When I see you I'll tell you what this person told me. We need the details and thenI think can prove it. It is one of the key areas.

Mary, there's been an awful lot of propaganda about me, usually from those who have something to hide. So, most people neither know nor understand me. I think Arch probably begins with a full set of prejudices, his own and those he's had contributed. Probably Sylvia has had her say, not that she knows anything. But she has political misconceptions, and do most people need more? But if she really knew my work, she'd know that nobody, not excepting the right, has poured it on the "liberals" like I have. Remember COUP alone? Or PM, what you've seen?

Anyway, I look forward to being able to accept the invitation. And I hope Arch is up to fairly decent periods of talking without hazard to his health. I gather from what you have said of him that Buck has a first-rate business head, and for anyone such discussions I would think that a distinct asset. If he can stand being bored. The real question, as I anticipate it, is what gets done and how. But I've given this thought when driving and walking, my only thinking time as it has been my drowning time, and if Arch wants some ideas, maybe I have a few he'd like to consider.

Another facet: Arch may not understand it from what he may have decided about me and what he may have heard, but let me give you this little illustration. I have done much on Oswald as an Agent and have started a book (editorial reception, beautiful; policy, negative). I am encouraging PM to do one his way, and to come here and go over my stuff first. It would be great if we could all work this way. And the vigor or my attack on his baloney has not really impaired our relationship. We never mention it, but I think he has come around to my view, which was everybody's, but expressed in more vigor and more detail.

I've really no time for enlarging on what I told you about the pictures and X-rays, but do your own thinking and see if you can find any reasons for being willing to believe that were a "critic" like Wecht to see them, come out and say what they show, how it would be hurtful. And begin with the assumption I have no douby you have seen enough here to believe, that he will add little to what we know, we at least through me. What will be the consequences? The oversimplification will be to exculpate the guilty and pin a bum rap one the wrong ones. It is not no enough to have recognition that the Report is wrong, for with that alone we have to start from scratch again. Think about it. Got a do otherthings. Best